

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 – 54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a candidate therapeutic compound, said method comprising the steps of (a) contacting a cell expressing a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, or a fragment thereof comprising amino acids 469-518 of SEQ ID NO:6 or amino acids 739-748 of SEQ ID NO:6, with a test compound, wherein said test compound specifically binds to the polypeptide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, or the fragment comprising amino acids 469-518 of SEQ ID NO:6 or amino acids 739-748 of SEQ ID NO:6; and (b) determining whether said test compound induces apoptosis of said cell and not of a control cell contacted with said test compound, wherein a test compound that induces apoptosis of said cell and not of said control cell is a candidate therapeutic compound.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, wherein said fragment comprises amino acids 469-518 of SEQ ID NO:6 and amino acids 739-748 of SEQ ID NO:6 ~~and does not comprise the full-length sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.~~

57. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein said cell is adenocarcinoma cell line 23132 (DSMZ Accession No. DSM ACC 201).

58. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein said fragment comprises a contiguous sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, wherein said contiguous sequence comprises amino acids 469-518 of SEQ ID NO:6 and amino acids 739-748 of SEQ ID NO:6.